

TOP-FORM WYCOMBE SHATTER OXFORD'S RECORD

Tony Horseman The Inspiration

Oxford 0, Wycombe 3

SOME tremendous defensive play, allied with the right blend of skilful, forceful attacking power, enabled Wycombe Wanderers to shatter Oxford City's proud unbeaten home record on Saturday in their Isthmian League encounter at Oxford, and end their run of 11 games without defeat.

Oxford, who had dropped only two points in seven home games and conceded only 16 goals in 16 games, were made to look a shaky, uninventive and quite ordinary side by the wonderful teamwork of the Wanderers.

Although Peter Lowen showed touches of undoubted skill and George Maharg never ceased to challenge, writes "Nova", it was a day for the Wanderers' established players—Peter Roystone, John Beck, the magnificent Horseman and the exuberant wingmen, Worley and Hodges.

Roystone was the cornerstone of a remarkable victory. His solid frame stood like a beacon in the middle of a quick-covering, mobile defensive network as Oxford bore down in raid after desperate raid, as they fought to come to terms in the second half.

But while the Oxford forwards persisted in short-passing and intricate movements, the Wanderers forwards looked menacing whenever they moved upfield.

THE 'GENERAL'

Helped by long, accurate passes from their defence, Hodges and Worley looked constantly dangerous and for once their crosses were exploited by the lanky Lowen and occasionally by Balson.

But the forward line "general" was undoubtedly Tony Horseman. Shed of his spearhead role, thanks to the acquisition of Lowen and the reintroduction of Balson, Horseman was able to roam to his heart's content—and to Oxford's discontent.

It was Horseman who made the first goal after 33 minutes, after Oxford had done most of the early attacking.

HORSEMAN AGAIN

Pullin, who had a quiet but sensible game, broke away on the left flank and passed square to Gale. The half-back, who sent across a stream of accurate passes all afternoon, curled one into the penalty box. Horseman controlled the ball and jinked round three

groping defenders almost in one movement, but with only the goalkeeper to beat the ball slipped from his control. Balson, however, stretched out a leg to push the ball home.

Seven minutes later it was 2-0 to Wycombe, and Horseman was both the engineer and scorer, after some helpful work by Lowen and Balson. And as the first half drew to a close Lowen, with a snap header, and Horseman again nearly increased Wycombe's lead.

NO FUSS

After the interval Wycombe were content to coast along, dampening every Oxford forward move with the minimum of fuss and effort. But the City were not going to let their unbeaten home record go quite as easily as that and they kept pressing. But only winger Bernard Harris, who switched to the right flank when Bricknell was taken off 25 minutes from time with a recurrence of a knee injury, looked to have the right ideas. Syrett twice saved well from him, and then smothered a shot from Goodison.

With less than a minute remaining, Wycombe proved that all the attacking in the world does no good unless the final knock-out punch is provided. Horseman careered past tackle after tackle on the half-way line and pushed out a pass to Balson, who drew an opponent before slipping the ball to Lowen. The centre-forward had a clear run to goal before dribbling round the goalkeeper and claiming his first goal for the senior side.

Oxford—J. Maskell; B. Jackson, K. Rumble; R. Goodison, I. Rundle, D. Buswell; A. Bricknell, J. Woodley, A. Howlett, T. Bradbury, B. Harris.

Wycombe—D. Syrett; J. Beck, G. Pullin; G. Maharg, P. Roystone, C. Gale; L. Worley, T. Horseman, P. Lowen, J. Balson, P. Hodges.